SSZ Conference – 2007
"Zoroastrianism 101: Living a Zarathushti Life in North America"

Sponsored by Society for Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC) and Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of NA (FEZANA)

Chicago, November 16-19, 2007
At
Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr
8615 Meadowbrook drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

PROGRAM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16:
7:00 pm Welcome dinner for speakers and guests.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17:
"Zoroastrianism 101: Living a Zarathushti Life in North America - Practices, Customs and traditions"
(Each speaker on Saturday has 20 minutes, including Q&A and discussion)
9:00 Coffee and rolls
9:15 Benediction
Welcome by ZAC president Hosi Mehta
Opening remarks: Pallan Ichaporia and Rohinton Rivetna
9:40 Living a Zarathushti Life - Hosi Mehta
10:00 Understanding the Zarathushti Calendar - Pesi Vazifdar
10:20 Zarathushti Scriptures and texts - Kayomarsh Mehta
11:00 Tea break
11:20 The Gathas in Our Daily Lives - Keki Bhote
11:40 Guide to Personal Prayers - Bomi Damkevala
12:00 Ritual Observances in a Zarathushti Household - Edul Udvadia
12:20 Lunch and Presentation
My grandfather Jivanji Modi's writings on Customs and Ceremonies - Jim Modi
1:40 Tying the Kushti with Understanding - Er. Jehan Bagli
2:00 Appreciating the Jashan, and Hamazor handclasp - Rohinton Rivetna
2:20 Practicing respect for the Environment - Rashna ghadialy
2:40 Tea break
3:00 Celebrating Gahambars - Jehangir Mobed
3:20 Festivals: Navroze, Jashne Sadeh, Mehergan ... - Keikhosrov Mobed
3:40 Customs for: Birth, Navjote, Wedding and Death
by Mahnaz Farhadieh
4:00 Post-death customs and ceremonies – Pallan Ichaporia
Dakhma in North America – Jehangir Shroff (in abstentia)
4:20 Closing benediction
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18:
(Each speaker on Sunday has 40 minutes, including Q&A and discussion)

9:00   Coffee and rolls
9:30   Welcome and Benediction

Session I. Chair – Dara Patel
9:40   "Gathas are not Didactic" by Dr. Pallan Ichaporia (University of Mainz)
10:20  Pahlavi Yasna and Importance of Pahlavi Literature
       by Prof. William Malandra (University of Texas)
11:00  Tea Break

Session II. Chair – Minoo Press
11:20  Zoroastrianism's Influence on the Offshoots of 3 religions:
       Essenes of Judaism, Nastorians of Christianity and Sufis of Islam
       by Keki Bhote.
12:00  Jamsheed in Avesta and Pahlavi Literature
       by Prof. Dr. Helmut Humbach (Mainz University) in abstentia.
12:30  Lunch
       Luncheon Speaker:  FEZANA president Dr. Rustom Kevala

Session III. Chair - xxx
1:40   Mankind to Mazda - a Voyage in Life by Er. Jehan Bagli (chair, NAMC)
2:20   Update on Persepolis Tablets at Oriental Institute
       by Dr. Matthew Stolper (Oriental Institute)
3:00   Tea Break

Session IV. Chair - xxx
3:20   New Evidences in Zoroastrianism by Prof. James Russell
       (Harvard University)
4:00   ‘Life’ after Life according to Zarathushtra - Dr. Kersey Antia
4:40   Closing benediction

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9:00 - Noon:  ROUNDTABLE dialogue with scholars and interested community members. Wrap-up session to discuss actions and assign responsibilities.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:
Contact Pallan Ichaporia (610-589-5419) or Rohinton Rivetna (630-325-5383, rivetna@aol.com).

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Suggested nearby hotels are: La Quinat, Willowbrook, IL. $75 + tax for 4 people, continental breakfast, 630-654 0077. Holiday Inn, Willowbrook, IL. $135 + tax for 4 people, no breakfast, 630-325 6400. Or, upon request, hosting arrangements will also be available with Chicago-area families.
REGISTRATION
Cost is $7 for Saturday and $7 for Sunday, payable at the door. Please RSVP by November 9th to Roshan Rivetna (630-325-5383, RRRivetna@aol.com), with the number of persons attending on each day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.